VINCENT N. SCHEIDT

Biological Consultant

3158 Occidental Street • San Diego, CA • 92122-3205 • 858-457-3873 • 858-457-1650 fax • email: vince@san.rr.com

SUMMARY BIOLOGY REPORT

To: Mr. Larry Walsh, Walsh Engineering & Surveying

From: Vince Scheidt, Consulting Biologist

Shannon Allen, Consulting Biologist Shannon Allen, Consulting Biologist

cc: Mr. Duane Betty, Distinctive Homes

Date: Final Revision 27 February 2006

RE: Biological Resources, Project Impacts, and Mitigation - TM 5316, Montemar Estates

Per your recent request, we have completed a biology field study of the approximately 7.57-acre TM 5316 (Montemar Estates) Project Site located off Montemar Drive in the community of Spring Valley in unincorporated San Diego County, California. The purpose of this survey (conducted on various dates between 14 February and 18 March 2003) was to identify the site's flora and fauna (Table 1), the onsite habitat-types, potential project impacts (onsite and offsite), and mitigation if required. As a result of this study, we are able to summarize the following biological issues as they relate to site development as proposed.

Habitats

- Non-native Grassland (Holland Code #42200) 7.46 acres
 The vast majority of the Montemar Estates property supports Non-native Grassland (NNG) vegetation.
 Indicators in this broadly defined habitat include Wild Oat (Avena fatua), Perennial Mustard (Brassica geniculata), Wild Lettuce (Lactuca serriola), Wild Radish (Raphanus sativus), and other non-native annual forbs and grasses. This weedy habitat reflects the highly disturbed nature of most of the property.
- <u>Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub</u> (Holland Code #32500) 0.11 acre Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub (CSS) vegetation is represented onsite by two small, isolated patches. Indicators in this habitat include California Sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), Flat-top Buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), Wishbone Bush (*Mirabilis californicus*), and other upland shrubs. The value of this habitat is low, given surrounding land uses, its isolation, and small size.
- <u>Urban/Developed</u> (Holland Code #12000) offsite Development is present on offsite properties to the north, west, and south. These areas are mostly vegetated with landscape plantings. Montemar Drive, a paved public road, forms the northern edge of the property.

Wetlands

A California Department of Fish and Game-defined wetland is located along a minor drainage that begins at the southwestern corner of the property and continues offsite to the south. This

jurisdictional drainage feature does not support any hydrophytes, but it qualifies as a "wetland" on the basis of its hydrology. The County of San Diego has recently determined that this drainage does not qualify as a Resource Protection Ordinance (RPO) wetland. In any case, the drainage clearly qualifies as "waters of the State" as defined by the State Water Resources Control Board and the California Regional Water Quality Control Board. It also qualifies as "waters of the United States" as defined by the U.S. Department of the Army and other federal agencies. The subject drainage is part of a U.S.G.S. "blue-line" stream that runs along the east slope of Dictionary Hill, draining into the Sweetwater River.

Flora and Fauna

Forty-three species of vascular plants and twenty-one species of animals were detected during the field surveys of the property. These are listed in Table 1. This list represents a characteristic flora and fauna associated with mostly disturbed habitats in this region of San Diego County. All of the species detected are common to this area.

Sensitive Species

No sensitive species were detected during the survey. However, some wide-ranging or cryptic sensitive species might be anticipated. No critical or highly sensitive populations of any species would be anticipated, however, in any case. Sensitive species known from the vicinity, along with an assessment of the probability of occurrence onsite, is presented in Table 3.

Various wide-ranging sensitive species, such as Red-shouldered Hawk, Turkey Vulture, several species of bats, etc. might be expected given the open nature of the onsite habitat, although surrounding land-uses would preclude any highly sensitive species, such as Golden Eagle or Prairie Falcon, from occurring here. No state or federally listed Rare, Threatened or Endangered species would be anticipated.

Quino Checkerspot

A directed Flight Season Survey for Quino Checkerspot Butterfly was conducted as a part of the analysis for this report. All surveys followed the current (2002) survey protocol for this species pursuant to our Federal ESA Section 10 (A) (1) (a) Recovery Permits for this species, # TE 87888133 and # TE 038065. Six species of locally-common butterflies (Table 1) were detected during the surveys. However, Quino was not detected at any time during any of the fieldwork. As a result of this survey, it appears certain at this time that Quino does not occur in association with the subject property. A copy of the 45-day Quino report as filed with the FWS is attached (Attachment B)

PROJECT IMPACTS AND MITIGATION REQUIREMENTS

The subdivision and subsequent development of the Montemar Estates property is subject to review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the County's Resource Protection Ordinance (RPO), and the Biological Mitigation Ordinance (BMO). This means that the County requires that you identify project-related impacts to native habitat and species, and provide mitigation to keep all impacts at a level that is not "significant". Project-related impacts, as we have identified them, are presented in Table 2.

Future development of the subject site would result in a loss of 7.46 acres of NNG and 0.11 acre of low quality CSS vegetation. Offsite sewer improvements will impact an additional 0.12 acres of NNG. Impacts to these habitats are considered "significant", as defined by CEQA, and the BMO requires mitigation for significant project impacts.

At this time, in order to reduce all project impacts (see Table 2) to "less than significant", as defined by CEQA, the following mitigation measures are recommended:

- 1. Provide offsite mitigation at a 1-to-1 ratio for all impacts to CSS habitat, and;
- 2. Provide offsite mitigation at a ½-to-1 ratio for all impacts to NNG habitat.

Thus, 0.11 acre-credits of CSS and 3.79 acre-credits of NNG must be secured in a County-approved Mitigation Bank supporting such resources. The stated ratios (1-to-1 and $\frac{1}{2}$ -to-1) assume that the credits to be secured are obtained in a Pre-approved Mitigation Area, pursuant to the MSCP. The securement of these credits should be made a Specific Condition of Project Approval.

Because the site supports a U.S.G.S. "blue-line" stream and jurisdictional wetlands and "waters", it is recommended that you contact the (1) California Department of Fish and Game, (2) the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, and (3) the United States Army Corps of Engineers to determine if these agencies have concerns regarding potential fill or discharge into a regulated watercourse. In the absence of a dedicated open space easement, specifically precluding such actions, the future owner of proposed lot #8 could impact, either directly or indirectly, the "blue-line" stream as lot #8 is developed in the future.

Thanks for the opportunity to provide this biological study and project impact analysis. Please contact us if you have any questions.

Table 1. Flora and Fauna Detected - TPM 20341E

Scientific Name

<u>Plants</u>

Ambrosia psilostachya Anagallis arvensis * Artemisia californica Atriplex sp *

Atriplex sp *
Avena barbata *
Baccharis sarothroides
Brassica nigra *
Brassica geniculata *
Brassica rapa *
Bromus diandrus *
Bromus rubens *

Calystegia macrostegia Capsella bursa-pastoris * Carpobrotus edulis * Chenopodium murale * Chlorogalum parviflorum

Corethrogyne filaginifolia var. virgata

Eriogonum fasciculatum
Erodium botrys *
Erodium cicutarium *
Erodium moschatum *
Foeniculum vulgare *

Geranium sp. *
Haplopappus venetus
Hordeum murinum *
Lactuca serriola *
Malva parviflora *
Marah macrocarpus
Marrubium vulgare *

Medicago polymorpha *

Olea europa *

Oryzopsis miliacea *
Oxalis corniculata
Panicum capillare
Picris echioides *
Raphanus sativus *
Salsola pestifer *

Sisymbrium altissimum *
Sonchus oleraceus *
Sonchus asper *
Stipa pulchra
Tamarix sp. *

Washingtonia robusta *

Common Name

Western Ragweed Scarlet Pimpernel California Sagebrush

Saltbush

Slender Wild Oat Broom Baccharis Black Mustard Perennial Mustard Field Mustard Ripgut Brome Foxtail Brome Morning Glory Shepherd's Purse Hottentot Fig Goosefoot Soap Plant Sand Aster

Flat-top Buckwheat Long-beaked Stork's-bill Red-stem Stork's-bill White-stem Stork's-bill

Wild Anise
Geranium
Isocoma
Wild Barley
Wild Lettuce
Cheeseweed
Man Root
Horehound
Bur Clover
European Olive
Indian Rice Grass
Yellow Sorrel

Western Witch Grass Bristly Ox-tongue Wild Radish Russian Thistle Tumble Mustard Sow Thistle Sow Thistle Purple Stipa Salt Cedar

Mexican Fan Palm

Table 1. Flora and Fauna Detected - TPM 20341E

Scientific Name

Common Name

Birds

Carpodacus mexicanus Corous brachyrhynchos Dendroica coronata Melospiza melodia Pipilo crissalis Sayornis nigricans Zenaida macroura

Housefinch Common Crow Audubon's Warbler Song Sparrow California Towhee Black Phoebe Mourning Dove

Mammals

Canis latrans

Spermophilus beecheyi Sylvilagus audubonii Thomomys bottae Coyote

California Ground Squirrel

Desert Cottontail Valley Pocket Gopher

Amphibians

Hyla regilla

Pacific Treefrog

Reptiles

Crotalus viridis Gerrhonotus multicarinatus Sceloporus occidentalis

Western Rattlesnake Southern Alligator Lizard Western Fence Lizard

Butterflies

Artogeia rapae *
Everes amyntula
Papilio zelicaon
Pontia protodice
Vanessa sp.
Hesperiidae

Cabbage White Western Tailed Blue Anise Swallowtail Common White Lady

Skipper

^{* -} non-native taxon

Table 2. Impact/Mitigation Analysis - TPM 5316

Totals	7.57 gross acres plus 0.12 acre (offsite sewer)	none i	7.69 acres ncludes 0.12 acre (offsite sewer)	3.90 acres
Sage Scrub			on the contract of the contrac	(@ 1-to-1)
Diegan Coastal	0.11 acre	none	0.11 acre	0.11 acre
Non-native Grassland	7.46 acres onsite + 0.12 acres offsite	none	7.58 acres	3.79 acres (@ ½-to-1)
Biological Resource	Onsite Acres (Pre-development)	Acres Preserved (Post-development)	Acres Impacted (Post-development	Mitigation Required 1

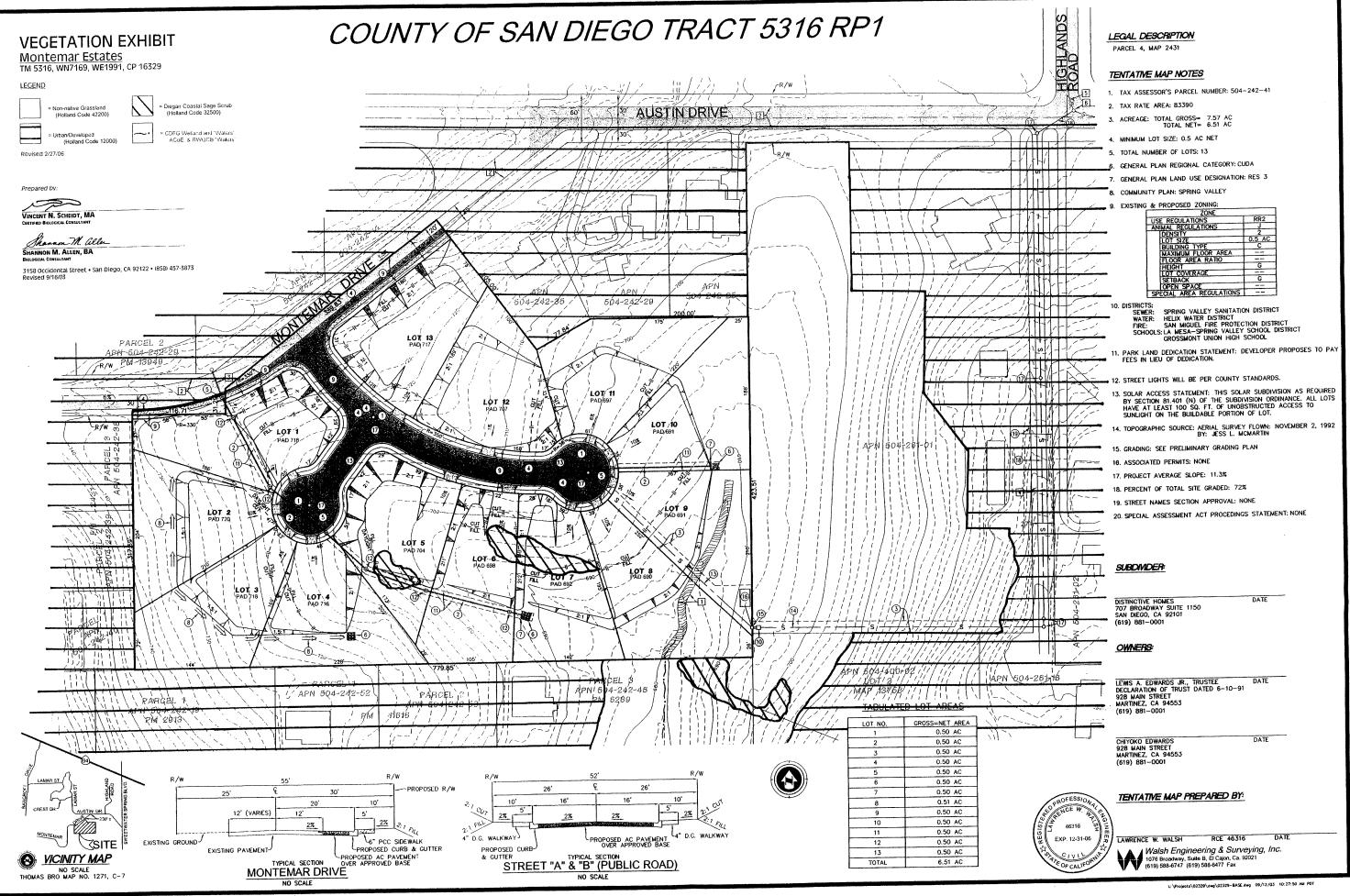
¹ - Assuming that mitigation would occur offsite in a County-approved Mitigation Bank that qualifies as a Pre-approved Mitigation Area, pursuant to the provisions of the Biological Mitigation Ordinance

Table 3. Sensitive Species Known from the Vicinity - TM 5316

		Τ																	·			
Scientific Name	Common Name	Federally Endangered	Federally Threatened	_	_	Mixed Chaparral	Grassland	Riparian	Oak Woodland	Chamise Chaparral	Mixed Conifer	Closed Cone Forest	Piñon-Juniper	Freshwater Marsh	Desert Scrub	Desert Wash	Salt or Alkali Marsh	Vernal Pools	Montane Meadow	Coastal or Desert Dune	Lakes and Bays	Probability of Occurrence
Acanthomintha ilicifolia	San Diego Thornmint	L	1	✓	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	~			~								✓				L
Accipiter cooperii	Cooper's hawk	<u> </u>	ļ		_	_	1	✓	✓													M
Achnantherum diegoense	San Diego needlegrass		L_		/		1										✓					L
Ambrosia pumila	San Diego Ambrosia	<u> </u>			✓		1	✓										✓				L
Ammodramus savannarum	Grasshopper sparrow	_					V															M
Anniella pulchra pulchra	Silvery legless lizard				✓		~	✓												✓		L
Antrozous pallidus	Pallid bat	_			✓	V	~	✓	Y	✓	Y	✓	′		✓	✓			V			М
Aquila chrysaetos	Golden eagle				✓	~	1		✓	✓	′	✓	✓									L
Ardea herodias	Great blue heron						1							✓							1	М
Athene cunicularia hypugea	Burrowing owl				✓		V									✓				1		L
Brodiaea orcuttii	Orcutt's brodiaea						✓	✓	✓	1								✓			\neg	L
Buteo regalis	Ferruginous hawk (Winter)						1								1						T	L
Cathartes aura	Turkey vulture				✓	✓	V	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓									T	М
Chaetodipus californicus femoralis	Dulzura California pocket mouse				✓	✓	✓		✓	~	1										\neg	L
Circus cyaneus hudsonius	Northern harrier						>							~			✓					М
Cnemidophorus hyperythrus	Orange-throated whiptail				✓	✓	V	✓		1												М
Corynorhinus townsendii	Townsend's big-eared bat					✓	~	✓	~	~	~	~	1		1	1			1			М
Danaus plexippus	Monarch butterfly						~		√										1		-	M
Elanus caeruleus	Black-shouldered kite						~	✓														M
Eremophila alpestris actis	Horned lark						~												1		_	M
Eumops perotis californicus	Greater western mastiff bat				✓	✓	✓	✓	~	1	1	1	~	/	7	1	1	1	/	\neg	-	M
Euphydryas editha quino	Quino checkerspot butterfly	1			✓		1			1					1	T		1	7		$\overline{}$	L
Holocarpha virgata elongata	Graceful tarplant						✓													7	_	M
Lanius ludovicianus	Loggerhead shrike				✓		1	1	~						1	1			1	7		M
Lepus californicus bennettii	San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit				✓	✓	1		~	~	1	~							1			M
Muilla clevelandii	San Diego goldenstar				✓		1			~					\neg			/		7	\neg	L
Myotis yumanensis	Yuma myotis			\neg	✓	✓	~	1	~	1	1	~	~	1	\neg		7	~	1			M
Nyctinomops macrotis	Big free-tailed bat				1	1	1	1	~	~	1	~	1	7	/	1	7	1	1	_		M
Nyctinomops femorosaccus	Pocketed free-tailed bat				✓	✓	1	1	~	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	/	/	7	\top		M
Odocoileus hemionus	Southern mule deer				✓	√	1	1	√	1	1	~	1		1	1	\exists		7	\top		L
Onychomys torridus ramona	Southern grasshopper mouse				1	√	1	\neg	\dashv	~	1			7	\forall	\dashv		7	\dashv	_	_	L
Phrynosoma coronatum blainvillei	San Diego horned lizard			1	1	√	1	~		1	1		7	7	\dashv	\dashv	\exists	\dashv	1	\dashv	-+	L
Scaphiopus hammondii	Western spadefoot toad			7	1	V	1	1	1	1	\neg		_	1	\dashv	+	1	√	\dashv	\dashv	_	м
Taxidea taxus	American badger			\neg	~	~	7	\dashv	1	1	1	+	1	\dashv	✓	/		\dashv	1	\dashv	_	L

Probability of Occurrence Codes:

L – Low Probability; rare species in area, and no significant habitat (animals); or distinctive perennial that would not have been missed if present onsite (plants). **M** – Moderate Probability; could be expected to occur onsite on at least an occasional basis, based on habitat quality (animals); or could occur onsite, but very rare, and/or poorly known (plants). **H** – High Probability; nearly certain to occur onsite on a regular basis (animals), but cryptic; or ephemeral species known from the immediate vicinity, but seasonal in occurrence (plants). **O** – Observed; see text for detailed discussion.



Attachment B. 45-day Quino Report as Filed with the FWS

45-Day Survey Results for the Quino Checkerspot Butterfly (Ephydryas editha quino)

45-Day Survey Res	sults for the Quino	Checkerspot I	Butterfly (Eph)	ydryas editha d	quino)						
Location:	Montemar project is an approximately 7.57-acre property located off Montemar Drive in the community of Spring Valley in unincorporated San Diego County, California.										
Habitat Description:	The vast majority of the property supports Non-native Grassland (NNG) vegetation. Indicators include Wild Oat (Avena fatua), Perennial Mustard (Brassica geniculata), Wild Lettuce (Lactuca serriola), Wild Radish (Raphanus sativus), and other non-native annual forbs and grasses. This weedy habitat reflects the highly disturbed nature of most of the property. Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub (CSS) vegetation is represented onsite by two small, isolated patches. Indicators in this habitat include California Sagebrush (Artemisia californica), Flat-top Buckwheat (Eriogonum fasciculatum), Wishbone Bush (Mirabilis californicus), and other upland shrubs. The value of this habitat is low, given surrounding land uses, its isolation, and small size.										
Survey Methodologies	During the survey, transects were slowly walked in all appropriate habitats. All disturbed areas as well as dirt roads were also walked. The NNG and CSS was surveyed opportunistically because most of vegetation was dense, closed canopy annual weeds.										
Name of personnel	Vince Scheidt (V.S.) & Shannon Allen (S.A.)	V.S. & S.A.	V.S. & S.A.	V.S. & S.A.	V.S. & S.A.						
Acres surveyed	7 acres	7 acres	7 acres	7 acres	7 acres						
Date of survey	18-Feb-03	1-Mar-03	5-Mar-03	14-Mar-03	18-Mar-03						
Weather	Clear skies	Partly cloudy	Clear skies	Clear skies	Partly cloudy						
Temperature											
(Start/Stop)	60/62	70/70	74/75 73/74 60/65								
Quino Observed	none	none	none none none								